

CESSNA - TEXTRON AVIATION EMBEDDED TRAINING

ABOUT TEXTRON WEST - CESSNA. Textron Aviation is the general aviation business unit of the American Textron group formed in March 2014 following the acquisition of Beech Holdings which included the Beechcraft and Hawker aircraft businesses. The new business unit includes the Textron-owned Cessna. Textron Aviation will sell Beechcraft, Cessna, and Hawker branded aircraft under common management. The company is based in Wichita, Kansas.

THE CHALLENGE. Last year, Kansas Manufacturing Solutions (KMS), part of the MEP National Network™, conducted a statewide needs assessment survey of Kansas manufacturers to identify barriers to growth for companies in the region. Two of the top five needs had to do with training, attracting and retaining a skilled workforce. Many of the companies in Kansas require a certain level of employee skills training or industry certifications to meet the needs of the organization. KMS partners with community and technical colleges around the state to deliver the workforce training needs of Kansas companies. In the Wichita region, KMS partners with Wichita Area Technical College (WATC).

Cessna (now Textron) trains new hires and existing employees on new processes and recertification of existing qualifications. There is a continuous effort to conduct these training and recertification classes more efficiently. KMS partnered with WATC to work with Cessna to develop and deliver on these training needs.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Cessna and KMS/WATC formed a partnership where WATC supports Cessna's training needs through providing qualified trainers to assist in the effort.

WATC has five full time trainers conducting various technical training and recertification classes at the Cessna training facility in Wichita Kansas. These trainers are full time WATC employees that report to Cessna daily to assist in the training efforts. By having the WATC trainers conduct basic training and recertification courses for Cessna, it freed up the Cessna trainers to focus on new projects and the overall merge of the technical training under the Textron umbrella.

"As a company, Textron Aviation has benefitted greatly by our relationship with WATC. Their skilled embedded trainers have assisted in getting us to complete compliance within our training certifications and qualifications, which has also provided flexibility to our training department to venture into new training areas and initiatives."

-Nick Sojka, Technical Training Development Lead, Dept. 190

RESULTS



Embedded trainers from WATC allow company trainers to focus on new training needs.



\$3,500,000 in cost savings



New investment of
\$10,500,000

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